

# Why Do Poetry In The Classroom?

Adapted from: 10 Ways to Use Poetry in Your Classroom By: Keith Schoch

## *1. Activate prior knowledge*

Students are most receptive to new learning when they can connect it to what they already know. Poetry provides a quick and fun way to do this.

## *2. Explore language*

Introduce children to language concepts such as rhyming, alliteration, punctuation...

## *3. Focus on facts*

Creating poetry is a wonderful way for students to share information they learned through class or independent study. What's fantastic about poetry is that it can bring life to otherwise dry and lifeless facts!

## *4. Set a scene*

Before launching a science, social studies, or math unit, I often used poetry to set the scene. The poems I chose from myriad books would spark discussion, curiosity, and prior knowledge, ultimately building excitement and anticipation for the new unit.

## *5. Inspire writing*

If you're seeking ways to get students writing, poetry is an effective vehicle to transport them to success.

## *6. See new perspectives*

One of poetry's transcendent powers is its ability to refocus, if not totally transform, our point of view. It's far too simple for students (and teachers!) to lose themselves in their egocentric viewpoints, and fail to consider issues from another perspective. Poetry open students' eyes to new ways of seeing.

## *7. Ignite curiosity*

Much has been said in educational texts about inquiry learning. From my own experiences, however, I find that students are naturally inquisitive, and there's not much more we need to do but focus their natural curiosity. Poetry can do this!

## *8. Provide pleasure*

Okay, so you may think I cheated on this one. After all, I'm supposed to be giving you purposes for using poetry. But if we can't convince our students that one of reading's purest functions is pleasure, then I don't think we've really done our job.



## *The Caterpillar*

Brown and furry  
Caterpillar in a hurry;  
Take your walk  
To the shady leaf or stalk.

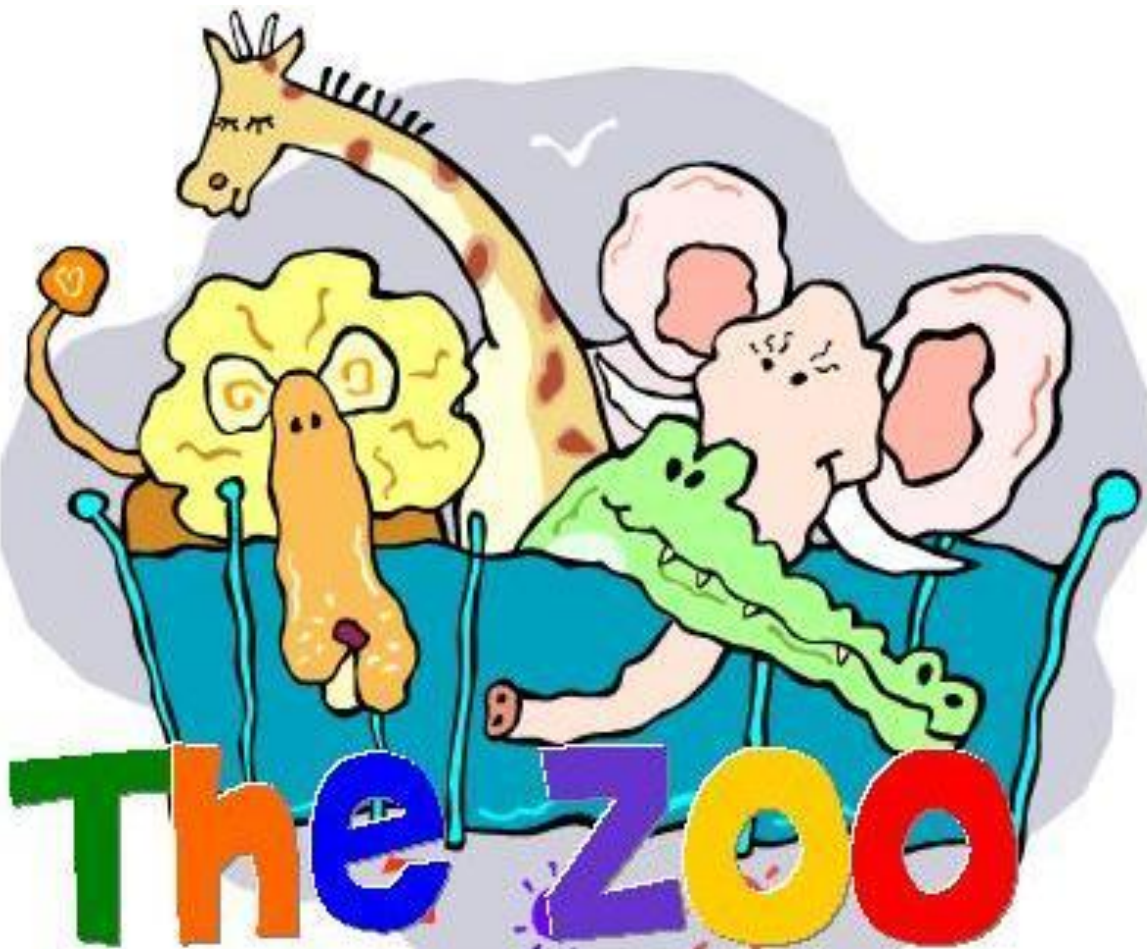
May no toad spy you,  
May the little birds pass by you;  
Spin and die,  
To live again a butterfly.

*Christina Rossetti*

## At The Zoo

William Makepeace Thackeray

First I saw the white bear, then I saw the black;  
Then I saw the camel with a hump upon his back;  
Then I saw the grey wolf, with mutton in his maw;  
Then I saw the wombat waddle in the straw;  
Then I saw the elephant a-waving of his trunk;  
Then I saw the monkeys-mercy, how unpleasantly  
they-smelt



# Alligator Pie

by Dennis Lee

Alligator pie, alligator pie,

If I don't get some I think I'm gonna die.

Give away the green grass, give away the sky,

But don't give away my alligator pie.

Alligator stew, alligator stew,

If I don't get some I don't know what I'll do.

Give away my furry hat, give away my shoe,

But don't give away my alligator stew.

Alligator soup, alligator soup,

If I don't get some I think I'm gonna droop.

Give away my hockey stick, give away my hoop,

But don't give away my alligator soup.



Juba This and Juba That

Juba this and Juba that

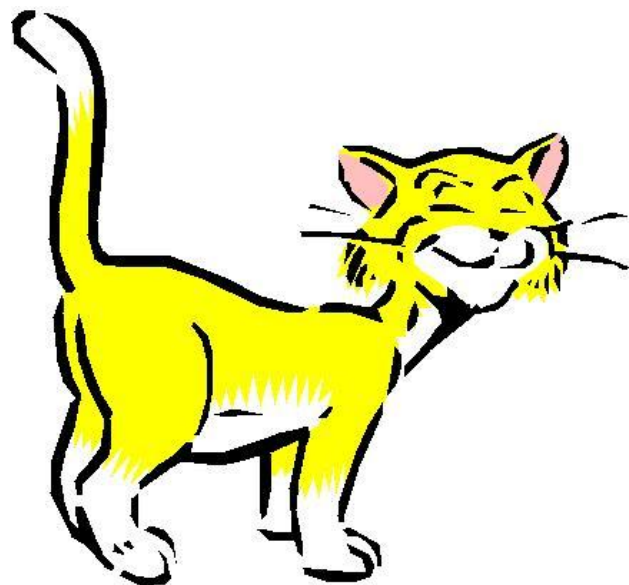
Juba saw a yellow cat

Juba up and Juba down

Juba runnin' all around

Juba This and Juba That

Virginia A. Tashjian



Butterscotch Dreams By Sonja Dunn

Butterscotch, Butterscotch

Butterscotch pie

For butterscotch flavor

I gladly would die.

I love it in cookies

I love it in cakes

I crave it in candy

Or fudge that I make.

It's heaven in sauces

Divine in ice cream

I have butterscotch, butterscotch,

Butterscotch dreams.



## Fuzzy Wuzzy

Fuzzy Wuzzy

was a bear,

Fuzzy Wuzzy

had no hair,

Fuzzy Wuzzy

wasn't fuzzy wuzzy,

Was he?



phillipmartin.com

Betty Botter bought some butter

But, she said, "This butter's bitter,

If I bought some better batter

It would make my butter better.

So she bought a bit of butter

Better than her bitter butter,

And she put it in her batter

And the batter was not bitter.

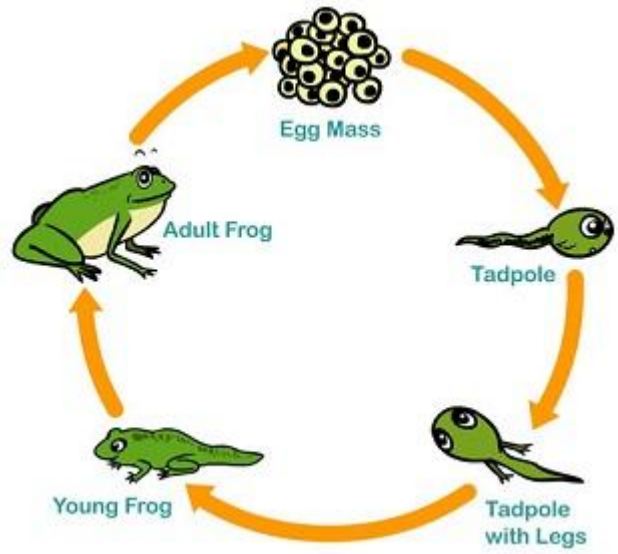
So 'twas better Betty Botter

Bought a bit of better butter.

Mother Goose Rhyme



**I'm a little froggy,  
 Slick and green.  
 I once was a tadpole,  
 As you have seen.  
 When I grew some strong legs  
 While swimming about,  
 And now I'm a frog.  
 So hurray, let's shout!  
 "Ribbit!"**



Can also be sung to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot  
 – Hummingbird Educational Resources

### Origami Frog

- 1, Start by making the piece of paper into a square.
2. Fold the paper into a square.
3. Fold each of the corners to the center point.
- 4, Fold each of the two top edges to the center line.
5. Fold the triangle at the bottom upwards.
6. Fold each of the bottom two corners to the middle of the bottom edge.

7. Fold the bottom portion upwards (along the dotted line).

8. Fold the top half of the lower rectangle downwards

toward yourself. This forms the frog's legs.

9. Give your frog a head by folding a small part of

the upper point downwards. Draw two eyes,

and your frog is done.

To make your frog jump, push down legs

## I'd Love to be a Fairy's Child

Robert Graves

Children born of fairy stock  
Never need for shirt or frock,  
Never want for food or fire,  
Always get their heart's desire:  
Jingle pockets full of gold,  
Marry when they're seven years old.  
Every fairy child may keep  
Two strong ponies and ten sheep;  
All have houses, each his own,  
Built of brick or granite stone;  
They live on cherries, they run wild—  
I'd love to be a Fairy's child.





# **Yip-Yip-Woof!**

© Kristin Frederick

**Tiny Chihuahua**

**Humongous Great Dane**

**The difference between them**

**Is really quite plain**

**Feisty Chihuahua**

**Will yap-yap and yip**

**If he doesn't like you**

**You may get a nip!**

**Gentle Great Dane**

**Has a powerful bite**

**But never would nip you**

**She's much too polite**

**Great Dane finds the carpet**

**A fine place to nap**

**Chihuahua loves curling**

**Right up in your lap**

**Their owners would have**

**Some cause for dismay**

**If each dog behaved**

**In the opposite way!**



# The Doubles Song

Sung to the tune "The Farmer In The Dell"

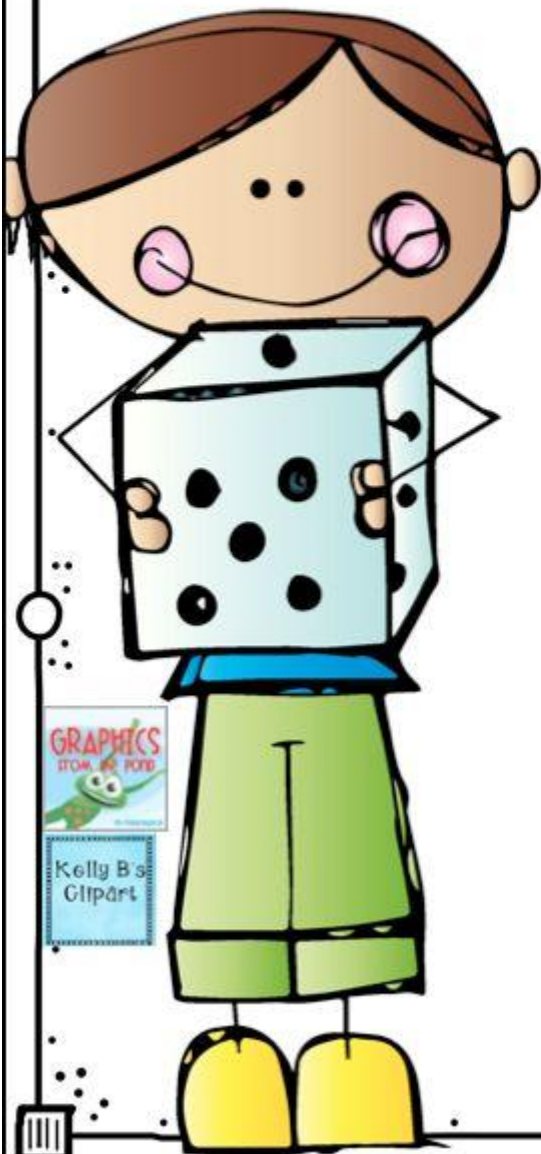
One and one is two,  
And two is two is four,  
Three and three is six,  
So now let's try some more!

Four and four is eight,  
And five and five is ten,  
Six and six is twelve,  
So now let's start again.

One and one is two,  
And two is two is four,  
Three and three is six,  
So now let's try some more!

Four and four is eight,  
And five and five is ten,  
Six and six is twelve,  
And now we've reached the end!

*Words By Tweet Music*



# CELEBRATE POETRY MONTH

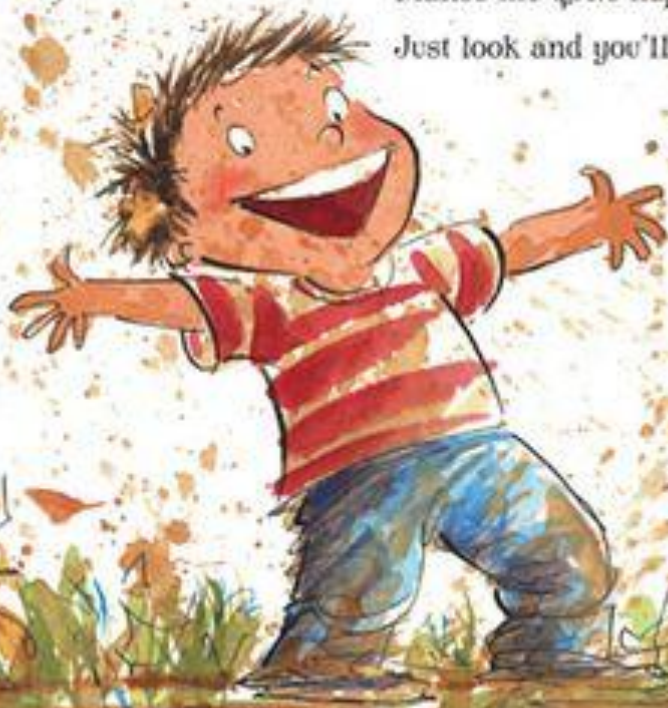
with HarperCollins *Children's Books*

## Dirt on My Shirt

There's dirt on my shirt  
And leaves in my hair  
There's mud on my boots  
But I don't really care

Playing outside is so much fun  
To breathe the clean air  
And feel the warm sun

To stomp in a puddle  
Or climb a big tree  
Makes me quite happy  
Just look and you'll see





This is my garden,  
I'll plant it with care.  
Here are the seeds  
I'll plant in there.  
The sun will shine,  
The rain will fall  
The seeds will sprout  
and grow up tall.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

# I can be a pal

by: Kristen Smith

I can be a pal by smiling at you.

I can be a pal when you feel blue.

I can be a pal who is honest and kind.

I can be a pal when you're in a bind.

I can be a pal by saying please and thank you.

I can be a pal when no one wants to.

I can be a pal every single day.

I can be your pal, what do you say?






A cute little snowman,  
had a carrot nose.  
Along came a rabbit,  
and what do you suppose.  
That cute little rabbit,  
looking for his lunch.  
Ate that snowman's carrot nose,  
nibble, nibble, crunch!

# 3D Shapes


-Author Unknown

3D shapes are fat not flat.




A cone is like a party hat. 



A sphere is like a bouncy ball. 




A prism is like a building tall. 



A cylinder is like a can of pop. 



A cube is like the dice you drop. 

3D shapes are here and there.

3D shapes are everywhere!

See you later,  
alligator!



Give a hug,  
ladybug!



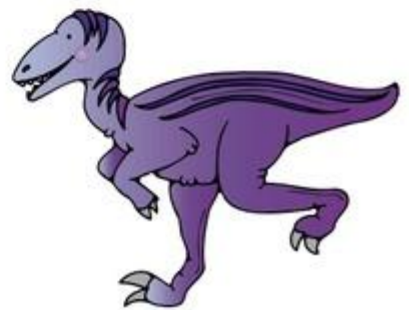
Hit the road,  
hopper toad!



See you soon,  
raccoon.



Out the door,  
dinosaur!





# Waddling Penguins

Penguins, penguins having fun,

Waddling in the winter sun.

Waddling fast and waddling slow,

Waddling to and waddling fro.

Penguins, penguins having fun,

Waddling in the winter sun.



# Five Little Turkeys

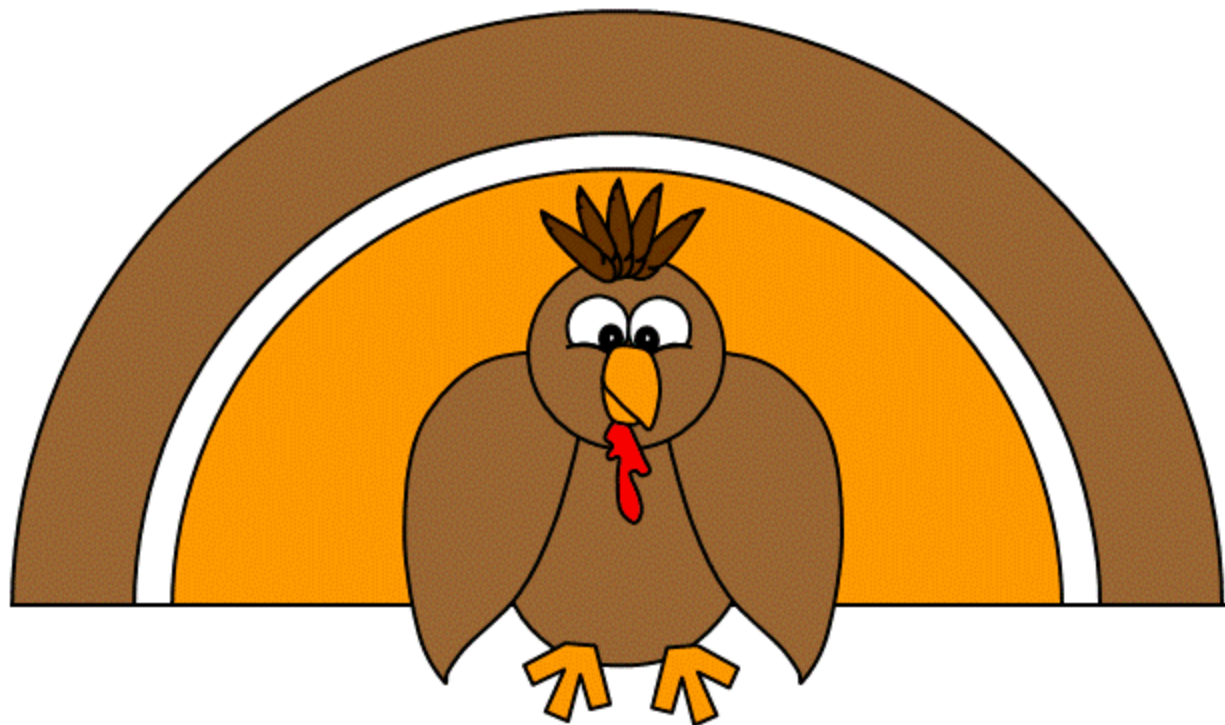
Five little turkeys standing at the door,  
One waddled off, and then there were four.

Four little turkeys sitting near a tree,  
One waddled off, and then there were three.

Three little turkeys with nothing to do,  
One waddled off, and then there were two.

Two little turkeys in the morning sun,  
One waddled off, and then there was one.

One little turkey better run away,  
For soon it will be Thanksgiving Day.



# A Wise Old Owl



A wise old owl sat in an oak,  
The more he heard, the less he spoke;  
The less he spoke, the more he heard;  
Why aren't we all like that wise old bird?

## **Poetry Resources**

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/type/poetry.htm>

<http://www.pinterest.com/felicaruth/quotes-poems-for-classroom/>

<http://www.pinterest.com/jfredrickson88/literacy-poetry-prek-kindergarten/>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/56555>

<http://education.ucf.edu/litsymposium/ppts/Rita%20Buchoff.pdf>

<http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/id-love-to-be-a-fairys-child-by-robert-graves#ixzz2yBbHNI4g>

<http://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/chihuahua-and-great-dane-yip-yip-woof#ixzz2yBdSRI5D>